

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 723

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE

USDOCOSOUTH

DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4770

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS:

SOFA, ART VII, 1

REF: A. STATE 115177 DTG 191316Z MAY 77

B. ATHENS 4626 DTG 171835Z MAY 77

1. ON MAY 20 WE WERE ABLE TO MEET WITH THE GREEKS TO DISCUSS
AND AGREE ON SOFA ART VII, 1. AFTER DESCRIBING THE
PROBLEM CAUSED BY GREEK-PREFERRED FORMULATION OF THE
PARA (PARA 1, REFTTEL A), WE ADVISED THE GREEKS THAT
USG CONSIDERS THE O AND M CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER THE DCA
APPENDICES ITS SOLE FINANCIAL OBLIGATION FOR THE USE OF
AIRFIELDS, AND THAT ONLY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES INVOLVING
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SERVICES NOT NORMALLY PROVIDED WOULD JUSTIFY A CHARGE
ON BASIS OF SOFA ART VII. THE GREEKS ACCEPTED
THIS, STATING THAT THEY HAD NO INTENTION OF CREATING
ANY FINANCIAL OBLIGATION GREATER THAN THAT PROVIDED FOR
IN THE COST-SHARING FORMULAS FOR US USE OF THOSE
AIRFIELDS. THEY STATED FURTHER THAT THERE CAN BE NO
DOUBT THAT US AIRCRAFT, VESSELS, AND VEHICLES

ARE EXEMPT FROM ANY CHARGES THAT COULD BE EQUATED TO A TAX, AND THAT THE GOG WOULD NOT ATTEMPT COLLECTION OF THEM.

2. AFTER WE MUTUALLY AGREED TO ELIMINATE THE PREVIOUSLY-FORMULATED FINAL SENTENCE OF SOFA VII,1 (REFTEL B), WE ADDRESSED THE REFORMULATIONS OF THE FINAL PHRASE OF THE REMAINING SENTENCE (PARAS 3 AND 4, REFTTEL A). REJECTING THOSE THAT CAME BEFORE, THE GREEKS FINALLY AGREED TO FORMULATION 4.D, "SPECIAL SERVICES RENDERED," AND THEREBY RECLOSED THE SOFA.

3. AGREED SOFA ARTICLE VII, 1 NOW READS:

"1. VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY OR EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE UNITED STATES FORCES AND SERVICES VEHICLES OF SUCH FORCES SHALL BE FREE FROM TAXES, DUES, DUTIES AND OTHER CHARGES, PROVIDED THAT SUCH EXEMPTION SHALL NOT EXTEND TO CHARGES FOR MATERIALS AND SPECIAL SERVICES RENDERED."

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Message Attributes

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